

# The Brooklyn Paper

Including Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill Paper, The Downtown News, DUMBO and Fort Greene-Clinton Hill Paper

**Brooklyn Papers**  
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 Brooklyn's REAL Newspapers

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## PolS seek a unified front over park

### Public forum canceled

By Jess Wisloski

The Brooklyn Papers

About a dozen local officials met behind closed doors last week to try to formulate a unified response to mounting criticism of the reconceived Brooklyn Bridge Park plan.

Meanwhile, the first public forum that would have examined the proposals, which include highly controversial waterfront housing, was canceled. The forum had been scheduled by community boards 2 and 6 for Feb. 10. At press time, no new date had been announced.

The meeting of officials took place Jan. 20 in Borough Hall, after the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation (BBPDC) was slammed by a coalition of civic associations over the new plan.

The Borough Hall meeting followed the receipt by the officials of a letter signed by the presidents of 10 community organizations that criticized the apparently reduced "level of community involvement" in the new plan. Several of those present at the meeting were unwilling to comment on what was discussed, except to say that a statement would be forthcoming.

Peter Hatch, chief of staff to Park Slope Councilman Bill DeBlasio, said he would not comment

on the pending statement until it was circulated to the attendees. He termed the meeting "quite productive" and said, "I think when the letter comes out it will be quite a story."

Evan Thies, spokesman for David Yassky, the Brooklyn Heights councilman in whose district most of the proposed park would lie, said that mainly the officials pooled their ideas.

"They just discussed their views on the project," Thies said. "Everybody wants the park to be built, and as soon as possible. I don't think anybody expected to come out of that meeting with everybody having the same view on what's going to happen."

"It's basically a meeting of the minds of all the local elected officials," said Dan Wiley, spokesman for Rep. Nydia Velázquez.

Cori Freedman, chief of staff to Brooklyn Heights Assemblywoman Joan Millman, said Millman "thought it was a productive meeting."

In the letter to BBPDC President Wendy Leventer, the 10 civic organization presidents asked that the park planners "immediately" arrange to hold two four-hour public information sessions, publicly disseminate complete information about the new park plans and produce financial information to the neighborhood organizations to help justify why the new plans included four residential towers.



The Brooklyn Papers: Tom Cullen

## Snowbound with saucers

Children carry their saucer sleds up a hill in the Columbia Heights dog run in Brooklyn Heights on Sunday. The Blizzard of 2005 brought more than a foot of snow to Brooklyn Saturday and Sunday, and made Monday's commute extra tough.

## Set rules for Wal-Mart stores: Tish

By Jess Wisloski

The Brooklyn Papers

With Wal-Mart pushing to open its first New York City store, in Rego Park, Queens, and reportedly eyeing a site in Downtown Brooklyn as well, legislation has been introduced in the City Council that could place a moratorium on big box stores.

"Wal-Mart is eager to make New York City its next retail frontier," Wal-Mart spokeswoman Mia Masten said in written testimony submitted to a Jan. 6 hearing of the Committee on Economic Development. "While we haven't finalized any agree-

See WAL-MART on page 5

## CB6 discusses Atlantic Yards

The Brooklyn Papers

Community Board 6 has begun holding meetings to decide what issues should be considered in an eventual environmental impact study of Forest City Ratner's Atlantic Yards development plan.

The board is the first of the three in whose districts the plan will sit — including CB2 and CB8 — to hold such meetings.

See YARDS on page 12

## Ikea hit with asbestos fines

By Jess Wisloski

The Brooklyn Papers

Following an investigation and order to halt demolition on a Civil War-era building on Red Hook's waterfront that was found to contain large quantities of asbestos, the Department of Environmental Protection issued 18 violations to contractors clearing the land for Ikea.

Although Ikea spokesman Jamie Van Bramer

originally claimed Ikea was uninvolved because a sale of the land to Ikea had not yet been completed, calls placed to Breeze Demolition, the contractors performing the demolition, were referred to Ikea this week.

Ikea, the international Swedish home furnishings giant, gained city approval last summer to build a \$70 million, 346,000 square-foot store on the former New York Shipyard, and has plans to build a parking lot where the buildings stand along Beard Street between Ostego and Dwight

streets. But prior to the asbestos discovery, state and city preservationist groups and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had asked the demolition be halted until the historical value of the Civil War-era pump house could be determined.

The groups were ignored, but work was halted on Jan. 12 due to the asbestos discovery.

Van Bramer did not return repeated phone calls to comment for this article.

The dredging company was charged with 10 violations, which DEP spokesman Ian Michaels

said would cost from \$1,200 to \$4,800 apiece. The demolition company was charged with eight additional violations, totaling \$86,400 in potential fines.

And that's if the judge isn't in a bad mood. Though the fine schedule usually dictates violation charges, Michaels noted, "The legislation of these fines allows charges of up to \$10,000 per fine. So if the judge at the Environmental Control Board wants to issue fines up to that, he or

See IKEA on page 12



The Brooklyn Papers: Tom Cullen

Breaking ground on a 24-story expansion of the New York Marriott Brooklyn, on Adams Street, are (from left) Marriott general manager Sam Ibrahim, Jason Muss, Joshua Muss, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Borough President Marty Markowitz, Chief Walter Plender, Dawn Greenidge, Linasia Ly and Alma Esteves.

## Brooklyn Marriott begins expansion

By Jotham Sederstrom

The Brooklyn Papers

Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Borough President Marty Markowitz put their shovels in the ground last week to mark the start of construction on an expansion to the Brooklyn Marriott that will nearly double the number of rooms at the borough's premier hotel.

When completed in the spring of 2006, the new 24-story tower, situated adjacent to the original Marriott at 333 Adams St., will add 280 new rooms to the existing 376, said Roberta Lee, a spokeswoman for Muss Development Company, which is building the hotel addition.

"The Brooklyn Marriott's decision to expand proves that the business community, along with the tourism industry in Brook-

lyn, is growing by leaps and bounds," said Markowitz. "The additional space means that even more people will be able to enjoy our world-class restaurants and museums, unique neighborhoods and, of course, experience the long-standing reputation of Brooklynites being reserved, subtle and polite."

Besides creating more than 100 new jobs, the addition, said Jocelyn Aframe, a spokeswoman

See HOTEL on page 12

## Hook grieves girl killed by snowplow

### Probe follows Sunday accident

By Jess Wisloski

The Brooklyn Papers

Her favorite color was green, she kept her big sister out of trouble and, judging by the messages left at her makeshift shrine, the brief life and tragic death of 10-year-old Markita Nicole

Weaver touched those she never knew. Police believe Markita was killed when a snowplow struck her in Red Hook Sunday as she prepared to play.

At 3 p.m. on the corner of Wolcott and Richards streets outside PS 15, which she attended, Markita was pulling plastic bags over her sneakers — to use as makeshift ice skates — on the first day she was let out to play in the post-blizzard snow. Witnesses told police a city Department of Sanitation snowplow struck her as she sat on a snow bank.

Friends and strangers quickly set up an impromptu shrine at the corner, with votive candles, cards and scraps of cardboard with messages of sympathy.

Fuquana Weaver, 17, said her little sister had affected people "without even knowing it."

"Me being the oldest, you would think I'd be keeping her out of trouble," she told The Brooklyn Papers, "but she kept me out of a lot of trouble when I needed it the most. 'It hasn't sunk in for me yet,' said the sister, who was still in shock. "I wake up

every day hoping it was a dream."

Most painful to the family has been the lack of acknowledgment of the tragic accident by whoever may have been driving the plow.

While police immediately investigated the Department of Sanitation truck depot on Second Avenue, no evidence of the accident was found on any of the four vehicles, and police have pursued other leads, considering that it may have been one of the many private plows that were out in the foot-deep snow Sunday.

Sanitation Department spokeswoman Kathy Dwyer said the agency's involvement "hasn't been determined yet and the police, after a painstaking investigation [of their Red Hook plow depot] found nothing conclusive that would connect the department to the accident."


"It's still under investigation," said a police source. "We haven't determined if it was a plow, if it was private, if it's Sanitation — as of now there's very few witnesses, so we're trying to put together what we have."

See GRIEVE on page 4



Markita Nicole Weaver

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## Harper's devotes page to Hynes 'fraud' response

By Jotham Sederstrom  
The Brooklyn Papers

Harper's magazine devoted five pages in its February edition — the entirety of its letters section — to responses to a December article that was highly critical of Brooklyn District Attorney Charles Hynes and Park Slope Assemblyman James Brennan.

The article, "Meet the New Boss," by Christopher Ketcham, placed Hynes and Brennan at the center of a Brooklyn Democratic political machine and said Hynes broke the same election law for which John O'Hara was prosecuted. O'Hara was a perennially unsuccessful candidate for public office whose resiliency aggravated establishment Democrats.

"Christopher Ketcham's accusations that I committed a felony is the worst journalistic excess I have seen in my long public career," wrote Hynes, DA since 1989, in a 1,300-word rebuttal to Ketcham's 7,500-word piece. "He shows a deliberate disregard of the facts surrounding my voter-registration record and of the prosecution of John O'Hara, whose activities he links with me. It is sloppy reporting at its worst."

Hynes spokesman Jerry Schmitterer told The Brooklyn Papers that Hynes was "satisfied with the printing of the letters and there's no lawsuit in progress."

O'Hara, 43, was indicted in October 1996 on seven felony counts of having registered to vote from a temporary address four years earlier. Hynes contended O'Hara registered to vote from his girlfriend's address on 47th Street in Sunset Park while maintaining a permanent residence on 61st Street.

He was the first person to be criminally prosecuted for voter fraud since suffragist Susan B. Anthony in 1876. O'Hara was convicted in 1997, but that decision was tossed out on appeal. A second trial in 1998 resulted in a hung jury, but a third the next year netted a conviction.

Since then it's been one un-

successful appeal after another, with two state supreme court rulings against O'Hara, 5-2, in 2001 and the U.S. Supreme Court declining to hear the case last year.

Ketcham's December article reports that Hynes filed a voter registration card that listed 210 Joralemon St., the Municipal Building, where he had his office at the time, as his residence.

In his response, Hynes said the 210 Joralemon St. registration was triggered under the "Motor Voter" laws by his filing of a change of address card with the post office while he was moving from Flatbush to a co-op in Bay Ridge on which he had not yet closed. During this period, Hynes said, he stayed at his second home, in Breezy Point, Queens.

Ketcham alleged that the prosecution of O'Hara came about as a favor to Brennan.

"The case originated in the office of O'Hara's nemesis, Brennan," wrote Ketcham in the December article. "It was pursued as a favor and then as part of an ultimate calculus by another Irishman, Brooklyn District Attorney Charles 'Joe' Hynes, who today remains a pure creature of the Brooklyn machine."

That passage in particular rankled Brennan, who has represented portions of Park Slope for 20 years. In his letter, which is also signed by his chief of staff, John Keefe, Brennan calls Ketcham's article "an exercise of political jujitsu and a malicious fantasy."

Brennan acknowledges that in September 1996, on primary day, Keefe tore up one of O'Hara's campaign posters, which was illegally hanging within a poll site's "No Electioneering" boundaries.

He maintains, however, that charges that Keefe assaulted O'Hara's girlfriend were proven unfounded after the woman changed her story three times and then admitted that her sworn police complaint contained false assertions about a medical examination.

"Even though Harper's magazine did not speak to us on most of these matters, a cursory examination of the court records — or a brief conversa-

tion with the independent witnesses who testified in the civil suit and at the trials concerning O'Hara's residency fraud and questionable petition practice — would have established this," writes Brennan. "We are shocked that neither Ketcham nor Harper's magazine undertook such a review of the alleged facts."

Ketcham, in his own letter in the February Harpers, defends his allegations against both officials. He said the charges of fraud against O'Hara were unsubstantiated, and that O'Hara's election petitions resulted in "long and painful taxpayer-funded challenges by Assemblyman Brennan."

"Such ballot-access challenges, of course, are part and parcel of the mendacity of New York State election law, where insurgents are made to feel like criminals by being hauled into court and cross-examined on their candidacies

for silly reasons," writes Ketcham. "What is especially obnoxious is that smooth operators such as Assemblyman Brennan exploit from this whirlwind of legal cheap shots what amounts to lifelong incumbency."

Ketcham says that Hynes' change-of-address gaffe, however trivial it may seem, is no different from the actions that got O'Hara disbarred and sentenced to community service in Bay Ridge.

"Under the strictest interpretation of the law — the same stringency he applied to O'Hara — Hynes was not registered to vote from a 'principal and permanent residence' for those six months," writes Ketcham. "In fact, Brooklyn's district attorney now tells Harper's magazine that he was not even residing in Brooklyn during that time; he was living in his summer home in Breezy Point, Queens."

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# Mugger duo robs man in Heights

By Jess Wisloski  
The Brooklyn Papers

A two-man mugging team robbed a 26-year-old Brooklyn Heights man while he was walking home at 9:10 pm on Jan. 18.

Police said the man was heading south on Henry Street from Clark Street when one of the attackers approached him near Remsen Street and said, "Give me your cell phone, or we'll kill you!"

That was the victim's second another man, who appeared from behind. The second man said, "Give me your cash, too."

Surrendering his cellular phone and \$27 in cash, the man watched as the muggers took off on foot.

## High St. mug

Four muggers attacked a man for his iPod digital music player outside of the High Street subway station in Downtown Brooklyn on Jan. 17.

As the victim, 24, headed down the stairs of the subway entrance at Adams Street near Red Cross Place around 6:30 pm, he noticed four thugs head up the stairs approaching him. Suddenly, while one man pinned his arms back, another one reached into his pocket, saying "Give me your iPod," and yanked out the victim's yellow iPod Mini.

All four, who the victim said looked between the ages of 15 and 17, fled out of the station and scattered after the mugging.

## Averts muggers

Two men tried to steal a man's backpack in Boerum Hill at 11:15 am on Jan. 18.

As the victim, 26, stopped to get a piece of piece of gum out of his knapsack, the two muggers walked past him on Wyckoff Street between Court and Smith streets.

After noticing the man crouched down, they turned around, and the first man grabbed the victim in a chokehold from behind. The second attacker punched the victim in the face, and yelled, "Shut up!" when the victim protested.

According to police, both men punched the victim, all the while struggling to remove his

## POLICE BLOTTER

backpack.

The victim, shouting for help, managed to attract enough attention to cause a witness in a nearby parked car to start honking his horn.

Startled by the sudden attention, both men fled the scene running east towards Smith Street.

## Robbed at prayer

A thief picked the pocket of a churchgoer at the Brooklyn Tabernacle on Jan. 11 while he was worshipping.

The victim, 24, told police he'd gone into the church at Joy and Fulton streets at 6:30 pm, and upon entering knew he had

his wallet with him. Once inside, however, the victim took off his jacket and laid it over his chair. In the pocket was a black billfold wallet, with \$10 in cash, a driver's license and debit card.

When the man next checked his pocket, at 6:45 pm, the money and wallet were gone.

## Fulton pick

A pickpocket struck at a discount clothing store on the Fulton Mall Jan. 20, by bumping into the victim.

The victim, 25, told police that someone had bumped up against him side around 5:30 pm, but when he went to pay for her

items her purse was open and her wallet was missing.

Given how crowded the store was, she told police she did not notice who the thief was, and was unable to identify anyone.

## ID thief

A thief who ripped off a woman's wallet in December was named recently as being responsible for changes to the money discovered on her January credit card statement.

The Brooklyn Heights victim, 39, told police that on Dec. 21, an unknown thief withdrew \$1,200 in cash from her bank account.

Among the other things stolen were a black wallet, various bank and credit cards, Ann Taylor, Lord and Taylor and Banana Republic store cards, insurance cards, Social Security cards and

\$25 in cash.

The woman said she discovered the wallet was missing on Dec. 18 at 6:30 pm, but did not notice where she had lost it.

## Swings at cop

A temperamental train rider lashed out at transit police as they tried to remove him from the subway at the Hoyt-Schermerhorn A, C and G station on Jan. 21.

At 11:50 pm, the man was asked to leave the station, possibly for loitering, although police reports of the incident were non-specific.

When the police officers approached him, however, he made it clear he wasn't going without a fight. Becoming agitated, he pushed a female officer to the ground, and threw a few punches at her. The attacker, 22, was placed

into custody by police after a brief struggle and is being charged with assaulting an officer.

## Snoozers loses

A pickpocket robbed a woman who fell asleep on an A train near the Hoyt-Schermerhorn station on Jan. 16.

## Masked mugger

A masked man in a military beret robbed a woman of \$261 at the Fulton Mall on Jan. 16.

The victim told police she was headed north of Duffield Street near the corner of Fulton Street when an unidentified man in a mask approached her around 6 pm.

"Give me all your money," the man demanded, and the woman, 20, dutifully handed it over.

She watched as he fled west-bound on Fulton Street on foot.

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## POLICE BLOTTER Man stalks, mugs child

By Jess Wisloski

The Brooklyn Papers

A mugger terrorized a 12-year-old boy after school in Park Slope, following him around until he forfeited all his money — \$5 — on Jan. 18.

Following the child down Union Street from Fifth Avenue to Fourth Avenue, the mugger first approached him on Degraw Street and said, "Stop and give me your money."

The boy asked him why, and then ignored him, and entered a Chinese restaurant around 5 pm at Degraw Street and Fourth Avenue. The man followed him in and warned, "If you say anything I'm gonna knock you out."

Finally the boy emptied his wallet to the pursuer, and gave him the cash.

The man then fled southbound on Fourth Avenue to an unknown location. The boy's mother reported the incident.

### Over dinner

A robber snatched a woman's purse out from under her on Jan. 9 in a bar and grill on Sixth Avenue in Park Slope.

The victim, 28, told police that she'd left her bag slung across the back of a chair when she settled in at the eatery — between Fourth and Fifth streets — at 9 pm.

The victim said she never left her seat but whoever managed to quietly lift the bag rung up \$110 in charges on her credit card before she was able to cancel it, shortly after 9:30 pm.

A waitress at the establishment said she'd been suspicious of a couple who had dined there earlier in the night.

Among the other items stolen were a wallet, a checkbook, makeup bag, personal electronic organizer and various credit cards.

### Take headlights

Thieves swiped the headlights of a BMW parked on Garfield Place on Jan. 17.

The owner of the vehicle, 66, had parked the car in front of his house between Seventh and Eighth avenues, and awoke at 5:10 am to the sound of his car being battered.

Looking out the window, he caught a glimpse of two males in dark clothing running away from his grey, 2001 car. They headed down Polhemus Place towards Carroll Street.

Aside from taking the \$2,000 headlights, the burglars damaged the front end of the vehicle.

### Identity theft

Burglars used a Park Slope's Citibank debit card five times between Dec. 20 and Dec. 22, and managed to charge \$2,100 before the man discovered the theft and reported it to police.

The victim said he believed the card to have been stolen near his home, on Eighth Avenue between Carroll Street and Garfield Place around Dec. 20 at 10 am, when the first charges were made. Subsequent withdrawals — one that day, and three others on Dec. 22 at noon — were made on Montague Street in Brooklyn Heights, and again in Williamsburg.

### Subaru stolen

Thieves made off with a Subaru that was parked on President Street near Prospect Park sometime between the afternoon of Jan. 20 and the morning of Jan. 22.

The car was reported missing by the owner, 32, who had parked the green, 1999 sedan between Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park West.

According to police reports, the man had parked the vehicle at 1 pm and found it missing at 7 am a day and a half later.

Stolen with the car was a baby seat and a set of golf clubs.

### Pain relievers

A duo of pickpockets in need of pain medication robbed a pharmacy of several bottles of Tylenol before a store manager noticed them on Jan. 21.

The men went into the Duane Reade at the corner of Flatbush Avenue and Prospect Place at 9:15 am and asked for a prescription. When the cashier was busy with their order, one of the men began to stuff his pockets with bottles of Tylenol.

Noticing the theft as the men started to make their getaway, the store manager, 27, tried to block the exit. The first bandit — described as 5-foot-8 and 190 pounds, wearing a dark blue jacket and beige skullcap with long bleached blond dreadlocks — tried to punch the manager. The other man, who was 5-foot-6 and 160 pounds with a beige baseball cap and grey sweatshirt, then pulled him away, and they took off on foot up Flatbush Avenue towards Prospect Park.

### Garfield burgle

A burglar ransacked an apartment between Sixth and Seventh avenues on Garfield Place on Jan. 19. The victim, 27, said her apartment was locked when she left at 1 pm. She returned home at 7 pm to discover a burglar had forced open the front door.



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# Pavilion sale sparks concern Heights cinema is next to go

By Jess Wisloski  
The Brooklyn Papers

Word of the sale of the Park Slope Pavilion movie theater by Screen Arts Corporation was seen by some residents as a harbinger of bad tidings for the company's last remaining theater, the Brooklyn Heights Pavilion, one of the few duplex theaters left in the city.

The Heights Pavilion last week posted a notice at its entrance saying it had no choice but to cut its schedule to six days a week, closing on Mondays.

"Unfortunately, these changes are necessary at this time," the notice said.

"Your continued support is necessary in order for us to provide you with entertaining pictures."

Calls to Screen Arts were not returned by press time. A woman who answered the phone at the Brooklyn Heights Pavilion last week said, "I've been informed that I know nothing about it."

Though the building at 70 Henry St., between Cranberry and Orange streets, is part of Brown Heights Historic District, the sale of Screen Arts' most successful theater, the multiplex in Park Slope, following on the heels of the company's sale of its theater at Flatbush and Seventh avenues last year and the recently announced plans to close other historic city duplex theaters, has some movie theater enthusiasts fearing the extinction of the duplex altogether.

The 52-year-old Beekman Theater, for example, immortalized in Woody Allen's 1977 movie "Annie Hall," will be replaced in June with a Memorial Sloan-Kettering cancer research center. The hospital had been leasing the theater to Clearview Cinemas since 1989. And Cinema 1, 2 & 3, in a prime location across

the street from Bloomingdale's on Third Avenue, will make way for more retail space. "Unfortunately what happens in Manhattan is the real estate becomes more valuable than running the theater itself," explained theater buff Michael Lewenthal, a Brooklyn-born contributor to Cinema Treasures, a Web site about historic theaters. In Brooklyn Heights, he surmised, it may be a very similar situation.

"This is happening all over, unfortunately," Lewenthal said. Lewenthal, who lives in Gravesend, thinks the loss of duplexes like the Brooklyn Heights Pavilion would change the movie-going experience irrevocably.

Judy Stanton, executive director of the Brooklyn Heights Association, which she has known about the Park Slope sale, but hoped that the Brooklyn Heights theater, even if sold, would remain a local movie venue.

"I haven't heard anything," said Stanton.

come forward in lieu of their mom or dad, Ronald Weaver.

"This is kind of weird for me," said Fuquana. "I was like a second mother to her. I used to tell her, 'I'm going to be there when you have your first boyfriend, watching her go to her first prom, being there for her wedding—I feel like all that got cut short.'"

She said Markita's mother was "taking it day by day."

"My mother is a strong lady," she added.

At the Patrick F. Daly public school, it was the normal routine Tuesday morning, but despite Principal Kathleen Leonard's brusque manner, she had a stricken expression.

"We have no plans as of yet," for a memorial service or assembly to talk about the death, she said, but suggested it may happen in the future.

"Right now we're waiting for the family," she said, and pointed out counseling was available to students who needed it.

Markita's funeral was scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 29, at 10 am at the Visitation R.C. Church. She was to be buried in New Jersey.

Ray Hall, founder of Red Hook Rise, a youth organization in the neighborhood and lifelong friend of Markita's father said he was sure the precise cause of the death would be found.

"It takes time to breathe," Hall said. "Maybe someone else will take it upon themselves to help the family out. We will all give our support because of what it is."

"That doesn't only affect the family, that affects everybody in Red Hook," he added. "That's a child that had a great future ahead of her, and nobody would want that to happen to her."



The two-theater Brooklyn Heights Pavilion on Henry Street at Orange Street.

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well-padded seats and cup holders — to a more intimate theater.

When the Court Street Stadium multiplex opened on Court Street in 2002, it brought more movie traffic than the area had seen in years. With 12 screens, customers could choose from a variety of movies, and since it opened the theater has offered most of the same box office hits for which Brooklynites used to trek to Manhattan.

Lewenthal thought Screen Arts owner Norman Adie had maintained the character at the Brooklyn Heights Pavilion.

He offers homemade food, there's gourmet stuff, you've got a cappuccino stand," he said, and commended that it was a good venue for the "art fare you won't get to see in a multiplex."

"People nowadays, they go to this big building that looks like a factory. You're herded in like a cow along these aisles," Lewenthal said.

"I'm glad we still have a duplex theater," said Stanton. "There's nothing about it that I would change."

Lewenthal cited as a highlight of the borough's recent movie theater history Adie's work in converting the former Sanders Theater into the duplex, which had been empty for 20 years, into the Park Slope Pavilion, which he said offered hope to cinema fans nationwide.

Similarly, Adie saved the dying and run-down Heights Cinema when he came in and revamped it.

"I think the community would at all costs want to preserve that movie theater, and I would support that," she said of the Heights Pavilion.

"I think it's an amenity that serves the Heights and I would hate to see it change."

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# Claiming CB6 doesn't care about Red Hook, member steps down

By Jess Wisloski  
The Brooklyn Papers

Saying board leadership largely ignores the opinions of Red Hook and Gowanus residents a member of Community Board 6 announced her resignation in a letter to the board's chairman and district manager.

Shaming the board leadership for "disregarding the opinions" of Red Hook and Gowanus residents and maintaining "outdated prejudices" that relegate the formerly industrial areas to "toxic industry, big box stores and public housing," in her letter, Edie Stone, who has lived in Red Hook for 13 years, charged that CB6 Chairman Jerry Armer and the executive committee, which is in charge of bringing community concerns before the full board, preferred to meet privately with developers rather than "heed even the voices of the affected board members."

Stone, who is the director of Green Thumb, the program that launched and continues to help

run community gardens city-wide, said she just got sick of seeing her neighborhood of Red Hook bear changes for the worse simply because the board didn't care about it.

"The biggest part of what's wrong is the executive committee, which basically never changes," she told The Brooklyn Papers. "They just take positions, and the board has been the same for 20 years. They have outdated positions on what the makeup of Red Hook is like."

In her mind, those outdated ideas are the vision of a neighborhood still made up of empty manufacturing space and gritty streets.

"The best we could do for this beautiful, incredible Red Hook waterfront district is a big box store," she said, referring to the board's approval of an Ikea.

It had been doing the same thing for the Columbia Waterfront District or Cobble Hill, where she said most of the appointees from her end of the district reside, "I would be no question about the appropriateness of it there. But for

Red Hook it's OK."

She also called for term limits for board members.

The board's district manager, Craig Hammernan, confirmed that he and Armer had received the letter, but had no response from Armer, other than: "We thanked her for her service, and wish her luck."

Being that her seat falls under the appointing authority of Sunset Park-Red Hook Councilwoman Sara Gonzalez, Stone's seat is due to be transferred to the authority of either David Yassky or Bill De Blasio, both of whose districts are centered around Park Slope, due to redistricting.

"Gonzalez is sorry that she's decided to leave, and diversity is important," said a spokeswoman for the councilwoman, Lois March. "They aren't always in the same place, but that's what makes a community board vital, people having different opinions," she said, subtly referring to Gonzalez's ardent championing

of the Ikea in Red Hook.

She would've preferred if [Stone] had stayed on," March added.

Said a Borough Hall source, "We do our very best to assure representation through the community, obviously things change," and with redistricting, seats are shifted around frequently.

For a borough analysis, the source suggested looking at a June 2004 summary done at the behest of a member of CB6, which compared the population of neighborhoods in the district to the ratio of seats on the board.

The Brooklyn Papers' request for a copy of the analysis was denied, with Hammernan calling the barely seven-month-old study outdated.

The report you cite was a one-page summary that was done at the request of a board member... and because there have been several changes to the board composition since then the data is stale and inaccurate," he said. "I will not

distribute inaccurate information. I do not know why Borough Hall would point you toward us since the community boards are not self-appointing bodies."

The 50 board members are, in fact, half appointed by the borough president, and half appointed by the council members in his district, with the borough president's approval.

Stone's urging for term limits was echoed by at least one other Red Hook resident.

John McGerick, who formerly served as executive director of the New York City Task Force on Charter Implementation and is a Red Hook activist, said is a sort of antiquated groupthink is in place at CB6.

"For several decades a small, insider clique has controlled CB6, much to the detriment of Red Hook and other neighborhoods," said McGerick. "By their recent votes, they've helped to destroy historic, Civil War-era structures and bring pollution to our parks

and waterfront," he added. Making reference to Ikea's demolition at the Erie Basin and improper handling of asbestos at the site.

"I think Jerry Armer has been there a quarter century," McGerick added. "It's time for the same term limits that apply to the borough president and council members to apply to community board members and all that they appoint."

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## WAL-MART...

Continued from page 1

ments for sites within the five boroughs, there are several store sites that we are now considering."

She said each store would generate "more than \$5 million in property and sales tax revenue" and more than 300 local jobs.

In a telephone interview with The Brooklyn Papers from her Washington, D.C. office, Masten said while no plans were in place to set up shop specifically in Downtown Brooklyn, the retail giant was indeed looking.

"We don't have any particular sites," she said. "We're just looking, not just throughout Brooklyn, but throughout the other boroughs."

"Red Hook is not a site we're interested in, and we don't have any [specific] sites in Brooklyn that we're looking at. As we're coming into Manhattan and the boroughs we're looking for opportunities to expand," she said. "We haven't ruled out anything, we just don't have any plans at this time."

At the Jan. 6 committee meeting, various labor organizers and business groups urged the council to impose a moratorium on accepting any more big box stores. According to Queens Assemblywoman Brian McLaughlin, president of the New York City Central Labor Council, doing so would provide time to examine how allowing the massive outlets affects other retailers, workers and the surrounding communities.

"If we allow companies like Wal-Mart into our city, we run the serious risk of setting alarmingly low, poverty-level wage and benefit standards for the city's entire retail industry," testified McLaughlin. "We cannot allow [them] to train New Yorkers into overwork and poverty."

Sitting on the committee throughout the hearing were Councilwoman Letitia James and Yvette Clarke, who both vocally supported the moratorium. At the other end of the panel was Sunset Park-Red Hook Councilwoman Sara Gonzalez.

Though an ardent supporter of bringing Ikea to her Red Hook district citing job creation and revenues as the draw, Gonzalez was mum throughout the hearing.

For James, the findings of illegal surveillance and discrimination against women employees were the reasons she stood against Wal-Mart.

"I'm glad it's not coming to the 35th Council District," she said, noting the rumors had her scared. "Until further explanation could be done, she said she'd support the moratorium."

Interviewed this week, James stood firm on the commitment and said she'd based her stance against Wal-Mart on a study released by Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.).

"The report that I read raises some serious concerns with the way Wal-Mart treats its employees — the failure to supply benefits, gender discrimination and just overall human rights violations," James said.

Clarke agreed, saying, "Is there something that's happening in the climate, that's on the economic horizon, that may mean letting a Wal-Mart in opens the floodgates for similar exploitative businesses to open here?"

Ducking out of the meeting, Gonzalez briefly responded to questions about the controversy surrounding Ikea. "As far as I'm concerned they continue to have dialogue with my office," she told The Papers. "This is not the end of this," she said, "and we continue to remain vigilant."

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# Atlantic LDC defends lights

To the editor:

I was surprised to read ("Atlantic lights called 'ugly,'" Jan. 15) The Atlantic Avenue Local Development Corporation (AALDC) went to great lengths to elicit comments and ongoing participation from the merchants and the community with respect to its efforts to reinvigorate the Atlantic Avenue community at night.

Community feedback is at the core of this project. Building owners are the ultimate decision-makers in the lighting installation.

The lighting installation on the pilot block was undertaken in the spirit of supporting initiatives that provide highly energy efficient lighting that is also kind to the environment. The participating building owners on the Atlantic Avenue pilot block between Hoyt and Bond streets told us they see the lighting as a welcome addition to a street that has long suffered from streetcar amenities.

The participants all eagerly agreed to the installation. Moreover, the AALDC's installation

## LETTERS

is a beta program that has been and continues to be open to public comment at every step.

Finally, please note that while both Con Edison and OSRAM SYLVANIA support our efforts to improve the neighborhood at night, neither organization has funded the effort, contrary to your report. While Con Edison applauded this innovative installation as a positive "green" initiative and OSRAM SYLVANIA donated the LED-based lighting within the fixtures, funding to date has come from the AALDC alone.

As the AALDC works vigorously to obtain the additional funding needed to extend these lights along the length of Atlantic Avenue, it is our sincere hope that the members of the community, and merchants, will join with us in the public process we have worked hard to establish.

Reasonable people can disagree about aesthetics but I think

that constructive participation and criticism is of far more benefit than what we saw in your recent article. I can assure your readers that every effort was made to reach out to the merchants and owners during the process to date. I know because I personally delivered by hand all the literature associated with the project to every merchant on the south side of the street (another board member did the same on the north side).

We look forward to your continued coverage of developments on Atlantic Avenue.

—Jan Kelley, president,  
Atlantic Avenue Local  
Development Corporation

## Mark Peters is Jewish, too

To the editor:

In his story "Hynes seeks all nominations," (Jan. 22) Jonathan Sederstrom incorrectly identified district attorney challenger Mark Peters' religious background. While the religious backgrounds of the various candidates should not be an issue

in this race, because Mr. Sederstrom has chosen to write about this, it is important that the record be accurate.

He incorrectly writes that two of Mr. Hynes' challengers are Jewish, without including Mr. Peters.

For the record, Mark Peters, who most recently served as the chief of Attorney General Eliot Spitzer's Public Integrity Unit, is Jewish.

—Sara Forman, campaign manager,  
Mark Peters for  
Brooklyn District Attorney

**Editor's response:** The Brooklyn Papers apologizes for not

having been able to confirm Mark Peters' religious affiliation by press time.

The issue was raised because District Attorney Charles Hynes said he had the support of "the broad spectrum of the Jewish community, the broad spectrum of the African-American and Caribbean communities," when he was first elected, in 1989, despite not having the support of the Brooklyn Democratic Party, a scenario he faces this year.

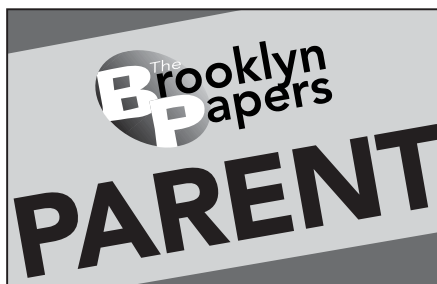
The fact that three of the DA's challengers are black and three are Jewish, therefore, could have an impact on the 2005 race.

## Getting it right...

The e-mail for Brooklyn City Streetworks Company (BCSC) was incorrectly reported in the Jan. 22 edition. For those interested in adopting or otherwise helping the trolley preservation effort, the correct address is [bcsc7186@msn.com](mailto:bcsc7186@msn.com).

The Brooklyn Papers strives for accuracy, but sometimes mistakes are made. In such cases, readers are urged to contact Editor Neil Shuman at [neilshuman@brooklynpapers.com](mailto:neilshuman@brooklynpapers.com) (718) 876-8588 ext. 119 or by fax at (718) 876-8588.

Letters to The Brooklyn Papers should be e-mailed to [letters@brooklynpapers.com](mailto:letters@brooklynpapers.com)



# The importance of nutrition

Q: Do parents realize that

nutritional deficiencies can be the culprits in decreased attention, fatigue and erratic behavior in their children?

Please provide more information on this. —A reader

A: Is your daughter's brain starving? Does your son have a Dr. Jekyll/Dr. Hyde personality? Resolve this year to learn about how nutrition influences your child's brain and behavior, not just the waistline.

For a fresh start, add this upcoming new guide to your cookbooks: "Brain Foods for Kids: Over 100 Recipes to Boost Your Child's Intelligence" by Nicola Graeme (Dell, 2005).

The author's easy-to-read "nutrient know-hows" and "brain boxes," sprinkled throughout the recipes, give tips including: Beans are a good source of zinc, a mineral that many kids are deficient in. And seeds such as sesame and pumpkin are powerhouses of brain nutrients.

Calcium and magnesium are known as nature's tranquilizers, Graeme says, because they relax nerve and muscle cells. Many kids do not get enough of either mineral, which can make them feel nervous, irritable and aggressive.

Children can have similar behavior problems if they're sensitive to food additives and colorings or intolerant to certain foods such as wheat or strawberries without having full-blown allergies. Keep a food diary and monitor your child's behavior over a block of time, Graeme suggests in her book. Then consult your primary-care physician as needed.

When looking for culprits in a child's behavior, there are so many possibilities, says

## Parent-to-Parent

neuropsychiatrist James Lee, MD.

"You have to figure out what each child is about. Start with the most common things that make the most sense," Lee told a workshop of parents and therapists. "If there is no progress, then turn over another stone."

Attention, concentration and mood can all suffer without enough iron, Lee has found with his young patients. "Protein and iron are two biggies in the brain," Lee says.

Even a moderate iron deficiency — not to the severity of anemia — affects brain performance, such as the ability to learn a new task, according to researchers at Penn State University.

The symptoms of low iron are not necessarily obvious, says pediatrician Henry Legere, MD, author of another new book, "Raising Healthy Eaters: 100 Tips for Parents" (Da Capo Press, 2004). The symptoms can include decreased memory, poor school performance, irritability, headaches, impaired athletic ability and reduced appetite.

Talk to your health-care

provider about your child's iron and other mineral needs, and whether he'd benefit from a multivitamin.

Toddlers, pre-kindergartners, and menstruating teenage girls are three high-risk categories for iron deficiencies.

"How you think, act and learn is affected not only by the types of food you eat, but also by how the food is prepared, how and when you eat it, and what foods you eat together," says pediatrician William Sears, M.D., co-author of "The Family Nutrition Book" (Little, Brown, 1999).

The rate at which sugar from a food enters brain cells and other cells is the "glycemic index." Feeding your child carbohydrate foods with a low glycemic index is one way to help him control his behavior and performance in school or at play, Sears says.

Breakfast is an easy meal in which to pack in calcium, iron and protein. The more balanced the breakfast, the more balanced the brain function, Sears says. Start your child's day with foods with a lower glycemic index, that don't dump in and out of cells quickly. Foods with a lower glycemic index include grapes and oranges; freshly made juice with pulp instead of filtered juice; and apples instead of apple juice.

## Can you help?

If you've changed your child's diet and have seen improvements in his attention or behavior, "Parent to Parent" would like to share your success stories with other readers. Please call (800) 627-1092, send an e-mail to [p2ptips@aol.com](mailto:p2ptips@aol.com), or write Parent to Parent, P.O. Box 2270, Davidson, N.C., 28036.

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

January 29, 2005

# Marmee dearest

*Bway's Maureen McGovern to perform at Brooklyn Center for one night only*

By Lisa J. Curtis  
GO Brooklyn Editor

She's an accomplished singer and actress. She's recorded gold records and received numerous accolades. She's performed in prestigious venues all over the world, so it's only fitting that coloratura diva Maureen McGovern will make her next concert appearance at Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts, as part of its 50th anniversary season, on Jan. 29.

This Saturday's engagement, part of the center's "Celebrities Series," is a coup for the borough because McGovern is currently starring as Marmee in "Little Women: The Musical," which opened on Broadway Sunday. While normally expected to perform eight shows a week at the Virginia Theatre, she's been allowed a night off for her Brooklyn gig.

"This show [at Brooklyn Center] had been booked a long time ago and I sing the praises of the [Little Women] producers to the hilt for letting me fulfill that obligation," McGovern told GO Brooklyn in a phone interview Monday. The Grammy-nominated singer's cabaret-style show at Brooklyn Center will be a tribute to composer Richard Rodgers.

"It's an early Valentine's Day show," said McGovern, promising an "elegant evening."

"I'm concentrating on music he wrote with Larry Hart and Oscar Hammerstein. As a singer and an actor, I believe he's one of the strongest voices of the musical theater. He wrote the most glorious music ever written."

Rodgers (1902-1979) is probably best known for his musical collaborations with Hammerstein — "Oklahoma!" "South Pacific" and "The Sound of Music."

"I did a show for his centennial a couple of years ago, and I fell in love with his work all over again," said McGovern, who recorded the Rodgers songbook album, "With a Song in My Heart" with Skitch Henderson and The New York Pops. "I was astonished by the vast amount of things he wrote ... and had to whittle them down to 100 of my favorite songs. He wrote the witty, witty sophis-

ticated things with Hart and the wide-open Americana things with Hammerstein. He's one of the greatest melody writers that our country as ever known, and I'm just scratching the surface with this show."

McGovern will be performing at Brooklyn Center with pianist Jeff Harris, her musical director.

"He has an amazing orchestra with his 10 fingers," she said.

Her director for "Little Women" is Susan Schulman, and the new production was a reunion of sorts between the artist and the director who made her theater debut possible.

"Susan directed me in my one week of summer stock in Pittsburgh as Maria in 'The Sound of Music,' and three weeks later I replaced Linda Ronstadt in 'Pirates of Penzance' and there I was off and running," recalled McGovern. She made her Broadway debut in 1981 as Mabel from "Penzance," has starred in the original production of "Nine" and opposite Sting in a version of "The Threepenny Opera." McGovern has recorded more than 25 albums, but is perhaps best known for the Academy Award-winning theme song from the movie "The Poseidon Adventure." "The Morning After" (She even played the nun, Sister Angelina, in the 1980 comedy "Airplane!")

"Susan and I always talked about doing a project together on Broadway and I'm very honored and I'm proud to be a part of 'Little Women,'" said McGovern. "I call it a three-hanky musical. But it's also joyous and funny and ultimately hopeful and life-affirming."

In "Little Women," she plays Marmee, the wise and loving mother of the four March sisters who are struggling to get by while their father is away as a Union Army chaplain in the Civil War. McGovern's performance of "Here Alone," when Marmee pines for her husband, and "Days of Plenty," when she sings through the loss of her daughter, are two heart-breaking moments in the musical. In "Days of Plenty," in particular, some in the audience can be heard sniffling back tears.



**'Here Alone':** Maureen McGovern (above) will take a one-night-only break from performing the role of Marmee in Broadway's "Little Women: The Musical" to regale Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts' audiences with an evening of songs by Richard Rodgers.

McGovern said she was moved when a little girl in the audience, who had lost her brother, was helped by the message of "Days of Plenty."

"I believe so strongly in the power of music to aid in the healing process — both physical and mental," said McGovern. "It's a masterful song about going on in honor of the person you lost. I lost my father this past summer, and you can imagine me in the beginning of rehearsals — I was a waterfall. But that's the power of this song. What do we learn from this? I go on in honor of him with everything I do and with every breath I take."

"Little Women," based on the 19th-century novel by Louisa May Alcott, centers on the daughter, Jo (played by Sutton Foster, Tony Award-winner for "Thoroughly Modern Millie"), an aspiring writer who longs to break free from Victorian society's constraints. In her research for "Little Women," McGovern said she visited Orchard House, Alcott's Concord, Mass. home.

"I could see Sutton as Jo bounding down the stairs," recalled McGovern. "I do believe Louisa May Alcott had her in mind in 1868. She's the embodiment of that col-like, kinetic

energy with a million ideas. She's imaginative and stubborn and strong and caring and loving — all of these strong attributes. Wonderful characteristics that are very much Sutton."

McGovern said Alcott's story is still relevant for contemporary audiences.

"As Marmee I'm a woman raising my four daughters on my own with my husband away at war, and now there are men and women raising their children with a parent away at war," said McGovern. "It's a timeless story in that regard. Louisa May Alcott has written the quintessential family story. You see a bit of yourself up there on stage. I look at these kids that play my daughters and see my nieces when they were young. I miss those little girls who also used to put on shows just as Jo did."

McGovern, 55, is originally from Ohio and is now based in Los Angeles. While in "Little Women," she is temporarily based in Manhattan and grateful for the change of scenery.

"I'm a New Yorker at heart," confessed McGovern. "In L.A., they talk about who they know, and in New York they talk about ideas. L.A. is always onto the next thing, but New York has a reverence for all the things that have come before us."

## BOOKS

### Brooklyn bound

"In Motion: The African-American Migration Experience," a new book by Howard Dodson and Sylviane Diouf, documents how 500 years of migrations shaped the United States and African-American culture. "In Motion" (National Geographic Books, \$35) includes Brooklyn personalities, like Father Divine, a Southern migrant who established the Peace Mission Movement in Brooklyn in 1912, and traces the contemporary migrations of Caribbeans to Brooklyn and the impact of their culture on the borough — the most spectacular display being the annual West Indian Day Parade.

The book's release coincides with an exhibit at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture (515 Malcolm X Blvd. at 135th Street in Manhattan, (212) 491-2200) beginning Feb. 3.

— Lisa J. Curtis

## BOOKS

### Same old Bums

More a history of the Dodgers' stay in Brooklyn than the story of the team's famous ballpark, "Ebbets Field: Brooklyn's Baseball Shrine" offers readers the chance yet again for a schmaltzy walk down memory lane.

Using his own interviews along with information gathered over the course of two years from the Brooklyn Historical Society, the Library of Congress and the "Brooklyn Library," author Joseph McCauley — a postal worker from Michigan with a degree in journalism — hasn't necessarily given us the definitive tome on all things Dodgers.

But he has collected some nice, if uncredited, photos. It all starts on the cover, where Ebbets Field can be seen in full color from a Mobil gas station across the street. It's the typical Ebbets, but pulled back a few hundred feet and taken from the street, giving a not-so-typical angle.

Inside, black-and-white photos are peppered with some interesting color shots, mostly taken inside the park and featuring the colorful signs along the outfield walls.

But my favorites are outside shots taken from McClellan Field looking toward Ebbets Field.

One of these shows a wall along Bedford Avenue that featured a Camel cigarettes sign, while another shows the grandstand from the corner of the two streets. Both are photos I hadn't seen before, and give an interesting perspective for those who were born after the Dodgers fled for Los Angeles.

"Ebbets Field: Brooklyn's Baseball Shrine" (Authorhouse, \$19.50) is available at [www.authorhouse.com](http://www.authorhouse.com)

— Vince DiMicieli

## ART

### Rwanda photos

An exhibit of photographs taken by Rwandan children, ages 7-18, is on display now in the Brooklyn Children's Museum library (145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Mark's Avenue in Crown Heights) now through March 27. The exhibit, "Through the Eyes of Children: The Rwanda Project," is the culmination of four years of photographic workshops taken by kids at the Imbuhwe Orphanage in Gisenyi, Rwanda, who were orphaned by the 1994 genocide. The exhibit, which includes a video of the children, "Gadi" (above), shot by 8-year-old Jacqueline, was previously displayed at Manhattan's Angelika Theater for the premiere of Terry George's film "Hotel Rwanda."

At the museum, the exhibition also features photographs taken by members of the museum's Kids Crew afterschool program who have also taken photography workshops and exchanged letters and cards with the Rwandan children.

Admission is \$4. For more information, call (718) 735-4400.

— Lisa J. Curtis

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## This week: WINDSOR TERRACE & KENSINGTON

### Amin Indian Restaurant

217 Prospect Park West at 14th Street, (718) 399-1300 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$7.50-\$14.95

With seven locations throughout the New York area, Amin is a well-established haven for Indian food aficionados. The banana "pakoras" are a sweet way to begin your feast, and owner Masud Ahmed says that everybody loves the chicken "tikka masala." Also try the vegetable salad with chickpeas, potatoes and deep-fried lentil fritters marinated in tamarind sauce. Hours vary among locations; this one is open Monday through Thursday, from 11:30 am to 10:30 pm; Fridays, from 11:30 am to 11 pm; and Saturdays and Sundays, from 12:30 pm to 11 pm.

### Circles Restaurant

192 Prospect Park West at 14th Street, (718) 499-5595 (Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$12.95-\$18.95

Appropriately named for its location on the Bartle-Prichard traffic circle southwest of Prospect Park, this spacious restaurant and bar offers a selection of hearty dishes and a fusion of traditional American, Italian and Mexican cuisines. Chef Ramon Zillab's menu offers portobello pork chops, 16-ounce marinated steak, salmon in pesto sauce with roasted peppers, as well as 17 kinds of gourmet pizza and weekly specials. Cowling chairs and antique furnishings accent the cozy, family-style interior.

### Elora's Restaurant

272 Prospect Park West at 17th Street, (718) 788-4190 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$4.50-\$27.95

Spanish-speaking locals gather at this sit-down restaurant to feast on over-stuffed Cuban sandwiches and sizzling fajitas and the romantic plucking of music. The stark decor, adorned with several beaded sombreros and dark-wood paneling, recalls the austere furnishings of a Western saloon. But don't let its simplicity fool you. The menu offers a selection of biblical proportions representing a litany of Latin American countries, as well as offering live lobster and Italian seafood dishes, prepared by chef Jose Nunez. Margarita happy hour is from 4 pm to 6 pm, Monday through Thursday; or get really happy on Fridays, starting at noon. Open Sunday through Thursday, from 11 am to 11 pm, and Fridays and Saturdays, from 11 am to midnight.

### Hot Diggity Dog

263 Prospect Park West at 17th Street, (718) 499-0008 (Cash only) Entrees: \$1.50-\$2.75. ★ Hot Diggity Dog specializes in serving the perfect frankfurter. Owner Billy Grillas uses only Boar's Head all-natural beef dogs and personally makes all the toppings. Popular dogs include the "Brooklyn" (mustard, sauerkraut and house-made onions) and the "Window Washer" (a dog wrapped in pastrami and topped with sauerkraut, Swiss cheese and mustard). Other dishes include cheese steaks and house-made veggie, turkey and chicken burgers. Dining is stand-out. Open daily from 11 am to 9 pm. Free delivery in the neighborhood.

### Jhinuk Restaurant

478 McDonald Ave. at Church Avenue (718) 871-5355 (Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$7-\$15.

This home-style Indian and Pakistani restaurant serves its dishes Bangladeshi style: hot, spicy and with a dash of yogurt and dash of herbs. The menu offers an eclectic selection of familiar

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Pizza is baked in a brick oven at Laura's Gourmet Kitchen.

Indian dishes and those that will leave you scratching your head. Owner Mahabub Khan suggests the "sacchi biryani," a fried Basmati rice dish topped with meat and spices, or a "boti kabab" with marinated mutton. Adjust the flavors of each dish by adding additional spices, herbs and nuts offered at the counter and give it a kick by topping it off with a pan-beetle leaf, an ingredient native to Bangladesh. Lassi, a yogurt drink with mango pulp, is available only in the summer, and fresh-water lobster dishes are seasonally available. Attention vegetarians: the menu contains a limited number of vegetarian dishes, but the owner will do his best to whip up something special for you. If you decide to eat in, feel free to toss your silverware. Eating with your hands is the Bangladeshi way. Specials served on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

### Laura's Gourmet Kitchen

1235 Prospect Ave. at Reeve Place, (718) 436-5715 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$9-\$23. "Everything on our menu is carefully prepared from old family recipes and simply the freshest food we can find," says owner Laura Leone, who renovated her restaurant in December. "Some of our recipes originate from the Genovese region of Italy, where my mother (Rosetta Forconi) and I come from, some from Tuscany, where my father is from, and some from Sicily, where my husband, [chef] Sal Leone, comes from. North or south, we've been making authentic Italian dishes on this corner for [over] 25 years."

Laura's is a true family restaurant. Sal's joined in the kitchen by chef Giorgio, who has been with the restaurant for over 15 years, and Forconi's contributions to the menu include mushroom omelet and a dessert, "torta de la nonna," grandma's torte, a refreshing lemon custard with pomegranates.

Laura is currently at work on a special menu for Valentine's Day, when a candlelight dinner is planned, which will be offered in addition to her regular menu. Laura's is available for private parties, offers takeout and delivery (to Park Slope, Kensington and Windsor Terrace), catering and brick-oven pizza. Laura's is open Tuesdays through Sundays for dinner, and for brunch on Sundays, from 11 am to 3 pm. A \$16.50 prix fixe dinner menu (offered Sundays, and Tuesdays through Thursdays) includes a choice of appetizer, soup, entree and dessert.

### Sushi Yu

214 Prospect Park West at 16th Street, (718) 832-8688 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$9.95-\$29.95 (for the "Love Boat" — the chef's creation of sushi, sashimi maki and hand roll). "There are moments of genius in Jimmy Liu's cooking," writes GO Brooklyn dining critic Tina Barry about the chef of this elegant and unassuming sushi bar. The restaurant, owned by chef's brother Michael Liu, specializes in sushi rolls and offers an assortment of noodle and teriyaki dishes. For the winter season, try the "Christmas Roll," with tuna, yellow tail, salmon, cucumber, nori, and masago (fish roe). Lunch specials served from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm: 11:30 am to 10:30 pm; Fridays and Saturdays, from 11:30 am to 11:30 pm; and Sundays, from noon to 10:30 pm.

Continued on page 10...



# Ciao Bella

Scottadito Osteria's rustic decor and Tuscan menu offer an enticing winter refuge

By Tina Barry  
for The Brooklyn Papers

Imagine you're in a farmhouse dining in the hills of Tuscany. You're sitting among friends at a big wooden table with couples kissing to your right and big families toasting one another to the left. A rustic iron chandelier hangs overhead; candles glow at the tables; the walls are weathered brick or fading tones of rusty red. Yeasty bread and piney notes of rosemary scent the air.

Now transplant that image to Park Slope, and you've got Scottadito Osteria. Tuscany, a rustic Tuscan eatery. "Scottadito" means "fingering blistering," and refers to a chef working lightning fast. The osteria opened in September in the space formerly occupied by the Japanese restaurant Gingko Leaf. The owners are Michele (Mi-KEL-ee) Di Bari, chef Paolo Nozzoli and Park Slope devotee Donald Minerva who transformed Gingko Leaf's cool, Zen-like setting into an earthy backdrop and impressive wine cellar worthy of the

movie "Under the Tuscan Sun" — with food to match.

"Hello Bella" is the convivial greeting Di Bari offers women entering his eatery. The warmth of his greeting continues throughout the evening with solicitous waitstaff who can guide diners through the menu and offer knowledgeable recommendations about the Italian wine list.

The owners are committed to using sustainable, organic ingredients whenever they can, preferring to purchase their provisions from small farms on the East Coast, sometimes sharing resources with their neighbor the Park Slope Food Co-op. It's an honorable goal that pays off in exquisitely fresh ingredients.

Our waitress suggested a special "burrata," a young mozzarella with a fresh, milky taste and a center that's not quite set. Nozzoli, who cooked in Manhattan's East River Cafe and has catered for fashionistas at Pier 59 Studios, bakes the cheese with a wrapping of grilled zucchini and prosciutto, then drizzles the little disk with truffle oil. It's nutty, salty and the oil adds an

earthy note.

I was less enamored with pasta that I shared as an appetizer. The thick ribbons of house-made egg pappardelle were perfectly silky, my yet tender. Instead of a robust, meaty stew over the noodles, the wild boar ragout was tame, lacking the richness a good ragout should have. Chicken liver pate smeared on crisp slices of country bread had a muted, somewhat under-seasoned taste.

An entree special of roasted duck breast was delectable, each rosy slice rimmed with a succulent sliver of crisp fat. A winy, beefy-flavored sauce naps each slice and moistens fluffy mashed potatoes. An unusually light caponata — not the sweet-and-sour variety but a roasted stew of eggplant sweetened with onions and given a saline note with black olives — accompanied the meat. Every note of the trio harmonized beautifully.

While the duck entree neared perfection, huge prawns over creamed spinach didn't mesh. The five shrimp, served head-on in the shell, were the

size of a man's fist, but lacked the fresh, delicate taste I associate with the shellfish. The first-rate spinach, simply blended with bechamel (cream sauce), made an arresting mossy-colored cushion for the peach shrimp, but as partners, the combo was just "eh."

Go with the vin santo, a sweet dessert wine that's lighter than sherry, and crisp housemade pistachio biscotti for dessert. If you're not too full, add one or two of the artisanal cheeses offered as dessert. It's a proper Tuscan way to conclude a multi-course meal. The other desserts — a saffron-tinged panna cotta topped with a swirl of aged Balsamic vinegar and a gorgeous, berry-strewn fruit tart — are correctly Italian, which means they may not be sweet enough for American palates.

While Fifth Avenue in Park Slope has turned the area into a destination for good dining, Seventh Avenue and its side streets could use a little culinary shaking up. Once Scottadito Osteria Toscana works out the few kinks in the kitchen, it should do just that.

# Summer on Smith

Winter has me ready to sip a mojito on a warm beach somewhere. But until I can get away, the blue tiles and sunset-colored walls of the new Cubana Cafe on Smith Street should satisfy the urge.

"It's like a vacation here every day," promises owner Steven Moustouros (pictured), who opened the cafe in November. (Cubana Cafe is the sister to Moustouros's year-old restaurant of the same name in SoHo.)

Consulting chef Dan Forte's menu is "Latin fusion with nouvelle cuisine twists," says Moustouros. So, close your eyes, order another cocktail, and dig into lightened versions of classic Cuban and Mexican dishes. There's the tender "ropa vieja" (braised beef) in a sauce made piquant with olives, sweet-

ened with onions and served with rice and beans.

You can substitute ground turkey for the beef in the "picadillo" (it's mixed with raisins and yuca and seasoned with cumin) if you're worried about overdoing it, but there's nothing light about a Cuban sandwich of roast pork, dill pickles, Swiss cheese and chipotle mayonnaise, no matter how you slice it.

Cubana Cafe (272 Smith St. between Sackett and DeGraw streets in Carroll Gardens) accepts cash only. Entrees: \$5-\$14. The restaurant serves breakfast all day, as well as lunch and dinner daily. Brunch is served Saturdays and Sundays, from 10 am to 3 pm. For more information, call (718) 858-3980.

— Tina Barry

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# Mayhem on Middagh

*'February House' recalls the famous writers & composers commune in Brooklyn Heights*

By Drew Pissarra  
for The Brooklyn Papers

History has a fickle memory. Why else would the Algonquin Hotel be remembered as New York City's quintessential literary salon while the equally fascinating arts commune at 7 Middagh St. in Brooklyn Heights is all but forgotten? Is it simply the age-old prejudice that places Manhattan ahead of Brooklyn, no matter the quality? Compare a list of the core members from both groups then judge for yourself.

In the former, you have Dorothy Parker, Alexander Woollcott, Heywood Brown and Robert Benchley. In the latter, W.H. Auden, Carson McCullers, Benjamin Britten and Gypsy Rose Lee — a best-selling mystery writer as well as the century's most celebrated stripper.

Whatever the reason behind the historical neglect, author Sherill Tippins has graciously rescued Brooklyn Heights' improbable (yet true) experiment in communal living from yesterday's dustbin with her new book "February House" (Houghton Mifflin Company). Her affectionately recounted if somewhat incomplete portrait of the enterprise gives a long overdue nod to a remarkable, pre-war hothouse in which a handful of major 20th-century artists lived, thrived, suffered, matured, collaborated and clashed in the early 1940s.

The idea for the actual February House — christened as such by none other than visitor Anais Nin because so many of the residents were born in that month — purportedly came to editor



House of genius: Author Sherill Tippins writes about the former artist colony at 7 Middagh St. (pictured, left) in her new book "February House."

and social butterfly George Davis in a recurring dream. Davis, who had recently left his job at "Harper's Bazaar," had taken the young literary sensation McCullers under his wing and the two were enthralled with the notion of creating an environment where artists could exchange ideas and nurture one another's work.

As Tippins narrates the individual stories leading up to the household's inception, the sense of possibility is palpable. McCullers is at the start of her career. Auden has already hit full stride and Davis promises to be the human lighting rod who'll charge their careers, as

well as those of anyone else within striking distance. The addition of Lee transformed the household into an event. Narrated in a style made warm by Tippins' use of first names when referring to most major players, "February House" initially feels as optimistic and promising as the undertaking it describes.

Yet the author's ardor for her subjects actually ends up being the work's undoing. Like an overzealous doctoral student committed to proving her thesis regardless of the facts, Tippins is overly insistent that February House was a watershed for all artists involved, even while reality begs to differ.

Initially, her premise is substantiated. McCullers, fresh off the success of her debut "The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter," crystallized her novel "The Member of the Wedding" while living



at 7 Middagh St. The main characters for her masterpiece "The Ballad of the Sad Cafe" were inspired by a pair of real-life counterparts first glimpsed at a neighborhood bar. Auden, similarly, was in the midst of a creative streak with timeless poems like "Leap Before You Look" and "In Sickness and in Health" coming to fruition at this time. Even Lee, for her part, penned the runaway hit "The G-String Murders," while under fellow resident Davis' astute guidance.

Sadly, once Lee left for Chicago and McCullers' health deteriorated (in part because of a severe drinking problem), the house itself seemed to fall apart. Auden and Britten's joint effort, the opera "Paul Bunyan," was a critical flop and the influx of Thomas Mann's political offspring shifted the house's raison d'être. By the time Jane and Paul Bowles, subplot the second floor, the internal conflicts had become so pronounced that February House resembled a pre-war literary precursor to MTV's "The Real World."

Tippins spends too much time following the accomplishments of those who left instead of fully reconstructing the often-disturbing dynamics among those who followed.

The final three years before the house was destroyed to make way for the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway in 1945 have been condensed into a series of asides in the cursory epilogue. That's unfortunate. While many of the later residents — such as Broadway set designer Oliver Smith and composer Colin McPhee — lack the cultural heft of their predecessors, one tenant did not: the black author Richard Wright.

Entering after the makeshift artist colony's heyday, the author of "Native Son," his white wife and their baby elicited a violent reaction from the surrounding community, a neighborhood that had been fairly accepting of the late-night parties with their boozing, pill popping and homosexual carousing (not to mention circus performer tenants with monkey in tow). According to the epilogue, it seems those outlandish she-nigans paled in comparison to the idea of miscegenation, which provoked neighbors to throw stones through a window at one of the most respected black writers of the 20th century. Perhaps somebody else will pick up this fascinating story where Tippiens left off. There's much more to tell.

## BOOKS

Author Sherill Tippins will read from her book, "February House" (Houghton Mifflin Company, \$24) at Barnes & Noble (100 Court St. at State Street in Brooklyn Heights) on Feb. 3 at 7 pm. For more information, call (718) 246-4996.

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# Training chances

Brooklyn music groups push the envelope with adventurous programs this week

By Kevin Filipski  
For The Brooklyn Papers

Where else but Brooklyn would audiences get to hear a 30-minute composition for speaking pianist or a short piece for string quartet by a 9-year-old prodigy?

The pianist who will be speaking — and singing and shrieking — is Doris Stevenson when she performs "De Profundis" by Frederic Rzewski (along with works by Chopin and Liszt) at Bargemusic on Feb. 3 and 4.

And the Jupiter String Quartet, with special guest cellist Jessica Constant, performs "Hoodown" by (the now 10-year-old) Conrad Tao, on Feb. 6 at the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church.

Also on their program are works by Haydn, Schubert and Ruth Crawford Seeger.

Rzewski's "De Profundis" may be one of the most intimidating piano pieces ever written. The 66-year-old composer from Massachusetts wrote it in 1995 as what he calls "an oratorio in eight sections," and its setting of excerpts from Oscar Wilde's final prose work (the letter he wrote but never sent to his male lover from prison) is startling in the way he has the pianist actually declaim the text while playing the piano, rather than using the standard singer.

Stevenson, who has performed many times at Bargemusic ("It's wonderful because you're up close to the audience," she says), thinks that Rzewski's unconventional work is "really a masterpiece. You use your whole body; you use your breath, you have to sing," she explains. "You even use your own body as a percussion instrument. Bobby McFerrin-style. You use so much of yourself while performing it, and since [Rzewski] is also a virtuoso pianist himself, it's wonderfully and imaginatively written for that instrument as well."

Stevenson is a veteran of "De Profundis," having performed it a number of times since she saw the composer himself play it shortly after its premiere. In fact, she was the first woman to perform the work, although Australian pianist Lisa Moore has since recorded it. As if "De Profundis" was not enough, Stevenson will also play Franz Liszt's B-minor sonata, which has sent



Doris' days: Pianist Doris Stevenson will be speaking — and singing and shrieking — at Bargemusic on Feb. 3 and 4.

chills down the spines of musicians (for its difficulty) and listeners (for its profundity) since it was written in 1853. Stevenson opens the program with Chopin's G-minor Ballade, which, in this context, is a mere warm-up.

"I guess I wanted to torture myself," she says, laughing in response to a question about playing both Rzewski and Liszt. "I actually think it's a nice pairing. They're similar — same length, similar form, both have fugues — and are masterpieces which reach sublime heights."

"Maybe I just wanted to play my two favorite pieces on one program."

## Jupiter's child

The Jupiter String Quartet — violinists Nelson Lee and Meg Freivogel, violist Liz Freivogel and cellist Daniel McDonough — isn't taking it easy with their Brooklyn Friends of Chamber Music (BFCM) recital; in addition to Haydn, Schubert and Tao's "Hoodown," they're playing Seeger's string quartet from 1931, a 12-tone work as astonishing for its difficulty as for its accessibility.

"It's a new piece for us," says Freivogel. "I came across it in a music book at the New England Conservatory and was blown away by it. Since it was written in

## MUSIC

Pianist Doris Stevenson performs Chopin, Liszt and Rzewski on Feb. 3 and Feb. 4 at 7:30 pm at Bargemusic, Fulton Ferry Landing at the end of Old Fulton Street in DUMBO. Tickets are \$35, \$30 for seniors and \$25 for students; for more information, visit [www.bargemusic.org](http://www.bargemusic.org) or call (718) 624-2083.

The Jupiter String Quartet performs Tao (with cellist Jessica Constant), Schubert, Haydn and Seeger on Feb. 6 at 3 pm at the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church (Lafayette Avenue at South Oxford Street in Fort Greene). Tickets are \$15. For more information, call (718) 855-2053 or visit [www.brooklynfriendschambermusic.org](http://www.brooklynfriendschambermusic.org).

12-tone [a composing style utilizing all 12 tones of the scale, with no tone used again until the others have been], she was pretty much ahead of her time.

"It's a really challenging piece," she continues. "We haven't done that much 12-tone music as a group, so it will be a change of pace. I think it will open people's ears to this type of music, [since the quartet is quite varied] — one movement is rhythmic, another pulsates with no rhythm, still another is virtuosic, like a conversation between the violin and the other instruments."

As far as Tao's "Hoodown" is concerned — a work that was brought to them by Wanda Fleck, founder of BFCM — Freivogel notes that the quartet is approaching it as they do every work that they tackle for the first time.

"We're really excited about it and we are looking forward to playing it," she says. "It should be fun!"

Fleck told GO Brooklyn that there are many talented young composers featured every year at the ASCAP Awards.

"There are kids writing entire symphonies, and believe me, they know what they are doing," says Fleck. "Their music is sophisticated, well-crafted and disciplined — yet highly individual."

"The reason I chose Conrad's piece is not because he wrote 'Hoodown' when he was 9, but because I liked the piece. And the instrumentation would work best in our plans."

Immediately following "Hoodown," the Jupiters end their recital with one of Schubert's most haunting and popular works, his "Death and the Maiden" quartet. Freivogel likes the idea that it follows the jumpy "Hoodown."

"The [Schubert quartet] is such an intense piece, but we feel it will pair nicely with 'Hoodown' in contrast," she says. "It's just an amazing piece to play and hear."

It's heartening to hear that fortune came the Jupiters' way on their recent trip to New York: the twenty-somethings won first prize in the Young Concert Artists' International Auditions on Jan. 15. "This was our third year entering the auditions," says the violinist. "We decided to give it one last try and we were lucky to win this year."

## BITES...

Continued from page 10...

### Terrace Bagels

2224 & 224 Prospect Park West at Windsor Place, (718) 768-3943  
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Breakfast specials are served weekdays from 6 am to 11 am. The shop occupies two storefronts — the one with the seating area stays open until 4 pm, and the main store is open weekdays, from 6 am to 11 pm; Saturdays, from 7 am to 11 pm; and Sundays, from 7 am to 9 pm. Free delivery to Brooklyn and Manhattan. Terrace can also cater Superbowl parties.

### Tookata Thai Grill

268 Prospect Park West at Prospect Avenue, (718) 369-2472  
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The blend of modern interior and Buddha statues lend a tranquil ambience to this narrow, sparsely tabled restaurant. Try a variety of Thai curries with your choice of vegetables, tofu, chicken, beef or shrimp. The "Sangkhay pumpkin custard" is the desert specialty. Six-month-old Tookata offers lunch specials served from 11:30 am to 4 pm daily. Open weekdays, from 11:30 am to 10:45 pm; and weekends, from 11:30 am to 11 pm.

### Windsor Restaurant Cafe

220 Prospect Park West at Windsor Place, (718) 788-9700 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$9.95-\$17.95

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